

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 20, as follows:

FIGS. 1 and 2 illustrate a specimen dispensing system according to an embodiment of the present invention. The system includes first, second and third conveyor lanes 1, 2 and 3. A conveying means (shown schematically via arrows 50) conveys a master specimen container 11 containing a specimen and a required number of empty slave specimen containers 21 and 31 on the first conveyor lane 1. The conveying means is capable of conveying ~~and stopping the~~ containers with known structure, similar to that of the prior art. Further details thereof are omitted. The conveying means conveys a master specimen container 12 containing a specimen and a required number of empty slave specimen containers 22 and 32 on the second conveyor lane 2. It conveys a master specimen container 13 containing a specimen and a required number of empty slave specimen containers 23 and 33 on the third conveyor lane 3. The master and slave specimen containers are aligned in the conveyance direction on their respective lanes.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 9, as follows:

When the master specimen container 11 and empty slave specimen containers 21 and 31 on the first conveyor lane 1 reach a position under a first dispensing nozzle N1 in a dispensing unit, they are stopped by ~~the conveying a stopping means-5052~~ (shown schematically in FIG. 1).

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 14, as follows:

When the master specimen container 12 and empty slave specimen containers 22 and 32 on the second conveyor lane 2 reach a position under a second dispensing nozzle N2 in the dispensing unit, they are stopped by the ~~conveying-stopping means-5052~~.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 19, as follows:

When the master specimen container 13 and empty slave specimen containers 23 and 33 on the third conveyor lane 3 reach a position under a third dispensing nozzle N3 in the dispensing unit, they are stopped by the ~~conveying-stopping~~ means-5052.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 9, as follows:

~~the conveying-stopping~~ means for temporarily stopping the master and slave specimen containers 11, 21 and 31 when the master and slave specimen containers 11, 21 and 31 reach a position under a dispensing nozzle N1 in a dispensing unit; and

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 14, as follows:

dispensing means for removing the specimen from the master specimen container 11 by the dispensing nozzle N1 when the master specimen container 11 is temporarily stopped in the position under the dispensing nozzle N1 by the ~~conveying-stopping~~ means and dispensing the specimen to the slave specimen containers 21 and 31 when the slave specimen containers 21 and 31 are temporarily stopped in the position under the dispensing nozzle N1.